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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
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Aug. 7, 1995

MONTANA ARTIST'S WORK DISPLAYED AT UM'S PAXSON GALLERY

MISSOULA--

Montana artist Henry Meloy is getting the recognition he never got when he was alive, thanks in part to a display of his work at The University of Montana's Paxson Gallery.

Peter Meloy of Helena is sharing his late brother's paintings and drawings with Montanans in the exhibition that runs through Sept. 8 at the gallery located in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Hours are from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. weekdays. Admission is free.

Missoula artist and UM professor emeritus Rudy Autio describes Meloy as an undiscovered gold mine. A life of poverty limited Meloy's array of materials, but not his production, Autio says of the man who created thousands of paintings and drawings.

Born in Townsend in 1902, Meloy studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and spent his career as an artist in New York City. He illustrated pulp magazines and was commissioned by the Works Progress Administration to do several paintings, including one at the Hamilton Post Office. He taught painting and drawing at Columbia University from 1940 until his death in 1951.

"It is easy to see his journey from west to east," says Autio. "His work follows two general themes: the beautiful and sensitive landscapes and horses of rural Montana, usually rendered in watercolor, and the urbane and lively studies of nudes and abstract color compositions that he painted of the New York Scene."

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Money raised through the UM exhibit will go to the Henry Meloy Educational Trust to fund scholarships in the arts.

The exhibition was curated by Dennis Kern, director and curator of the UM Museum of Fine Arts, and Peter Held, director of the Holter Museum of Art in Helena. The exhibition was prepared with grants from the Montana Arts Council, the Montana Community Foundation, Bergum Drug of Helena and the Henry Meloy Educational Trust.

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